

Art Unit: 3739

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28. (Three Times Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

a guide element for introduction into a body;

a plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes on the guide element; and

[an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure and adapted to receive at least a first predetermined input command; and]

a controller, operably connected to the plurality of electrodes [, to the operator interface] and to a source of tissue ablating energy, [the controller being adapted to receive predetermined input commands from the operator interface and to electrically connect the plurality of electrodes to the source of tissue ablating energy.] the controller including

an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure that receives at least a first predetermined input command, and

switching means for selectively disconnecting at least one of the electrodes within the plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes from the source of

✓ 30. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim [29] 28, wherein the at least one disconnected electrode is located within the plurality of longitudinally spaced electrodes such that a plurality of contiguous electrodes are electrically connected to the source of tissue ablating energy.

13 32. (Twice Amended) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the operator interface [is adapted to receive] receives a second predetermined input command and the controller further includes polarity means for selectively altering transmission of energy from the electrodes between a unipolar ablation mode and a bipolar ablation mode in response to the second predetermined input command.

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43. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the [controller comprises] operator interface includes a plurality of manually operable switches respectively associated with the plurality of electrodes.

44. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the [controller comprises] operator interface includes a plurality of manually operable on-off switches respectively associated with the plurality of electrodes.

53. (Four Times Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body, comprising:

a guide element,

at least first, second and third contiguous electrodes carried by the guide element arranged such that the second electrode is located between the first and third electrodes, and

[an operator interface operable during an ablation procedure and adapted to receive at least first and second predetermined input commands,]

a control device [associated with the operator interface and] including an operator interface that receives at least first and second predetermined input commands, operable in a first mode in response to the first input command to simultaneously electronically couple the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy, and operable in a second mode in response to the second input command to block transmission from one of the first, second and third electrodes while simultaneously electronically coupling the other of the first, second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the other of the first, second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy, and

an indifferent electrode adapted to be located on a patient,

wherein the first, second and third electrodes transmit ablation energy to the indifferent electrode.

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35. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim ~~32~~, wherein [the control device is operable in a second mode to block] transmission is blocked from the first electrode [while simultaneously electronically coupling the second and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the second and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy] in the second mode.

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36. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim ~~33~~, wherein [the control device is operable in a second mode to block] transmission is blocked from the second electrode [while simultaneously electronically coupling the first and third electrodes to a source of tissue ablation energy such that the first and third electrodes simultaneously transmit ablation energy] in the second mode.

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38. A system as claimed in claim ~~33~~, wherein the first and second electrodes are separated solely by a region of nonconducting material and the second and third electrode are separated solely by a region of nonconducting material.

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39. A system as claimed in claim ~~33~~, wherein the guide element comprises a portion of a catheter.

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40. A system as claimed in claim ~~38~~, wherein at least one of the electrodes comprises a helical electrode.

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45. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim [28] ~~32~~, wherein the [control device comprises] operator interface includes at least first, second and third manually operable switches respectively associated with the first, second and third electrodes.

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46. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim [28] ~~38~~, wherein the [control device comprises] operator interface includes at least first, second and third manually operable on-off switches respectively associated with the first, second and third electrodes.